

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney would first like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' attorney in expediting the schedule for an Interview and for the Interview that took place on June 30, 2005.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 9 and 11. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter to the disclosure of the application. Claims 9 and 11 have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention, and new claims 12-17 have been added and claim dependency from claim 11.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner at her earliest convenience allow each of claims 2-7, 9, 11 and 12-17 to issue as a patent.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY:

During the Interview the Examiner and Applicants' attorney discussed the Examiner's rejections, including the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. The Examiner and Applicants' attorney discussed independent claims 1, 8 and 10. The Examiner and Applicants' attorney discussed the terminology in claim 8 relating to "a digital signature routine." The Examiner and Applicants' attorney also discussed the terminology in claims 1 and 10 relating to documents being "completed" interactively and providing at least one electronic "request."

With respect to claim 8, Applicants' attorney explained that the terminology used in the claims "digital signature routine" is distinguishable from the electronic signing by a physician as taught in Brimm (col. 9, lines 36-37). The "digital signature routine" involves a processing of the digital file to create a signature or coding representative of the digital file, while the electronic signing by a physician or other user of the electronic file involves adding coding to the file representative of the physician's signature. The Examiner acknowledged this distinction between Applicants' claimed invention and Brimm.

The Examiner and Applicants' attorney discussed and agreed on an amendment to claim 8 in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

With respect to claim 1, Applicants' attorney explained that the "method of interactive processing of a document to be completed by more than one party over a computer network" was an interactive process for completing a document with a request being provided to a first user at a first location on a computer network for information used to

complete the document. Thus, the request is an electronic request sent via the computer network. This is distinguishable from Brimm which does not teach an interactive process providing a request for information to a user, but instead teaches that each user must access the file independently and actively and make the changes identified by the user after reviewing an automatically generated task list.

Although Applicants believe that the proposed amendments as discussed with the Examiner more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention, because the Examiner indicated that she would have to undertake a new search, Applicants have filed a continuation application to move the cancelled claims forward to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, each of the claims of the above referenced application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully requested that Examiner at her earliest convenience withdraw her rejection of the claims and issue a notice of allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at (973) 912-7174 if the Examiner believes that oral communication with Applicants' attorney will expedite issuance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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